

Testimony of Jack Malone
Executive Director
Southeastern Council on Alcoholism
And Drug Dependence, Inc.
(S.C.A.D.D.)
February 18, 2010

**Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Members of the
Appropriations Committee**

**I'm Jack Malone, Executive Director of the Southeastern
Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc, a
community based substance abuse treatment program located
throughout Southeastern Connecticut.**

We employ 140 people.

**This year we will treat 3200 individuals in one of our four
levels of care.**

**It will be at the initial detox level—for those who want to break
the grasp of addiction**

**In long term residential level—or for those who need to be in a
safe & sober environment and learn to live sober.**

**In a Halfway House, integrating back into the community as a
sober and productive member of our society.**

**In an Outpatient setting where they can stay working and with
their families while confronting the problems in their life
brought on by their disease of addiction.**

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We confront the stark reality each and every day that heroin--- pure, plentiful and powerful South American heroin is king in Connecticut. The unquestioned favorite drug of choice for young men and women engaged in recreational drug use and sadly the number one drug of choice contributing to a detox admission.

I tell anybody who will listen that the importation and distribution of high grade heroin is as much a homeland security issue as any but it has lost its place of attention on these matter when this nation was scared in a whole new way because of the September 2001 attacks on American.

We are paying a price for this right now and will continue to do so.

Hundreds of thousands have been jailed because of their substance abuse and the criminal behavior that is associated with it.

Thousands have been afforded treatment.

That number has to be reversed.

As an educated and compassionate society we can't throw up our hands and say we no longer will allow substance abuse treatment. The other option is an exploding prison population and the state will be a slave to an enormously expensive system of incarceration and punishment with next to nothing of a substance abuse treatment option for the incarcerated.

Our society and our laws demand that we try to help individuals.

This body--this Appropriations Committee—has an enormous task of balancing the needs of the state and its citizens with the reality that the pool of funds to do so has diminished.

In the past few years it has been a choice to forgo any increases to the non profit community that does the bulk of the work for the state of Connecticut.

That decision was justified with the tacit knowledge that the non profits will get the job done somehow. Legal, contractual union obligations had to be honored first.

People understood that. Decisions had to be made and contracts had to be honored. But under siege from lack of support, the non profit community just might shrink and those who carried out a valuable and necessary social service might fall by the wayside—cease to exist.

It is no longer a question of a cost of living increase. It is a question of survival. Can some of the non profits survive? Will the state deconstruct the non-profit service system.

That is not necessarily the optimum solution.

Evaluating how well the work is carried out must continue. Results based Accountability and other measures must lead this committee in its work. The non profit community can stand up to that frisk. It is the start of changing the way business is done in Connecticut.

Balance at all cost but we can't be slaves to higher priced prison services and allow cost effective treatment services to suffer or worse—be starved out of business.

My testimony would not be complete without giving you one figure to ponder. An individual who comes out of the state prison system and enters the SCADD Lebanon Pines Long Term Residential Treatment Program can avail himself of a treatment modality that will give him all the tools he needs to live and stay sober. This we do for \$1800 per month. The last compilation I received on the cost for a Department of Correction bed was approximately \$4100 per month.

Thank you for your time and attention to my testimony and thank you most for the work that you do in deliberating these serious matters.